

Forest Pest Management

Pacific Southwest Region



File Code: 3420

Date: July 23, 2001

Subject: Root disease and hazard trees in Lost Creek Campground (NE01-07)

To: Park Superintendent, Lassen Volcanic National Park

At the request of Jon Arnold, Forest Pest Management evaluated a tree failure at Lost Creek Campground (CG) on July 12, 2001. Bill Woodruff (plant pathologist) and Rick Turcotte (entomologist) conducted the evaluation with Jon Arnold. In addition to examining the windthrown tree, a brief survey of the campground for root disease was completed.

Shortly after Lost Creek CG opened this year, a large white fir tree blew down near Group Campsite #1. After examining the site, it appears that this fir was more fully exposed to the force of the wind after a nearby large tree was removed last winter. The failed tree had extensive rot in one of its main roots. Rhizomorphs of armillaria root disease were found growing on this tree. The crown of this tree had many dead branches throughout its crown which indicates it had low vigor. Before falling, the failed tree had been growing in contact with a second large white fir. Without the support of the failed tree, this standing white fir is now at greater risk of falling. In addition, this remaining white fir may have rot in its roots. It would be wise to remove this third tree since campers are allowed to pitch tents under this weakened tree.

After a brief examination of the rest of Lost Creek CG, armillaria root disease was found throughout the campground and many of the old fir trees have unhealthy looking crowns similar to that of the tree that fell. It is likely that some of these old white firs that remain

**NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA SHARED SERVICE AREA
2550 RIVERSIDE DRIVE; SUSANVILLE, CA 96130**

Sheri Lee Smith, Entomologist 530-252-6667 email: ssmith@fs.fed.us Rick Turcotte, Entomologist 530-252-6610
Bill Woodruff, Plant Pathologist 530-252-6680 email: wwoodruff@fs.fed.us Danny Cluck, Biologist 530-252-6431

Lat 40.56199 Lon -121.51718

have root disease. Only a few of the fresh stumps that were created last winter show evidence of butt rot. This could indicate that most of the remaining trees are sound. However, we did not excavate roots at this time. Even with root excavation, it would have been extremely difficult to locate the rot that existed in the roots of the failed tree in campsite #1.

In our brief look at Lost Creek CG, a number of possible hazard trees were apparent. Trees with large dead branches, hollow trunks, exaggerated lean, or old scars are present. It does not appear that failure of any of these trees is imminent, but that determination can only be made by a licensed arborist who has the equipment to do thorough internal examinations of the bole and roots. It would be wise to have an intensive hazard tree survey performed in Lost Creek CG this year by a certified arborist to assure visitor safety.

If you need further help or have any questions, please call me at 252-6680 or e-mail me at wwoodruff@fs.fed.us.

WILLIAM C. WOODRUFF
Plant Pathologist